UNRWA NEWS

اخبار الاونروا

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تصدرها وكالة الامم المتحدة لاغاثة وتشغيل اللاجئين الفلسطينيين في الشرق الادنى

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Grants for rebuilding in Lebanon

UNRWA is helping once again with the reconstruction of refugee shelters in Lebanon, where thousands of families' shelters were destroyed or damaged in this year's factional fighting in the camps around Sidon and Beirut.

UNRWA engineers have been surveying the camps to assess the damage. The survey of Ein el-Hilweh and Mieh Mieh camps near Sidon is complete; that of Shatila and Burj el-Barajneh camps in Beirut should be finished soon. UNRWA will provide cash grants, as it did after the 1982 Israeli invasion, for reconstruction.

"One of the advantages of giving cash grants is that it enables the refugees to start rebuilding their shelters more quickly," says Mr. Peter Holdaway, Director of Relief Services. Auditors have been dispatched to supervise the cash distribution, which is beginning in the Sidon area first.

The amounts of the cash grants will depend on family size and the extent of damage, as assessed by the engineers on a "percentage-of-destruction" basis. The assistance is based on the cost of materials and labour. All eligible families will receive cash for the purchase of materials; special hardship cases will get grants for labour costs as well. Money for the programme will come from the Lebanon reconstruction fund first raised by UNRWA in 1982.

Help with travel document problem

The Lebanese Government has agreed to assist Palestine refugees residing abroad and holding Lebanese travel documents. Some of these refugees who formerly lived in Lebanon have had difficulty in renewing their travel documents and thus lost their permits to live and work in countries in which they have resided since leaving Lebanon.

In a letter addressed to Lebanese Prime Minister Rashid Karami on 26 July, Commissioner-General Olof Rydbeck and United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees Poul Hartling requested Mr. Karami's intervention "to promote a new and easier procedure for the renewal and extension of travel documents issued to Palestine refugees by the Lebanese authorities".

Prime Minister Karami agreed to the forming of a committee to establish new procedures for the documentation of these refugees. The committee will be composed of representatives of the Lebanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Sûreté Générale, and of UNRWA and UNHCR.

English language course for teachers

A course in the teaching of English was held for English-language teachers in Gaza from 6-18 July. The course was conducted jointly by UNRWA and the British Council in Jerusalem.

Nineteen teachers from UNRWA and 18 from the government attended the course, and received certificates at a party in their honour attended by the British Consul General, East Jerusalem, the Director of UNRWA Operations, Gaza, teachers and senior UNRWA and government education staff.

Open day in Jordan

Under the patronage of the Jordanian Minister of Occupied Territories Affairs, Dr. Taher Kana'an, the committee for the joint OXFAM/UNRWA Community Centres for the Disabled at Suf and Jarash camps held an open day and charity bazaar on 29 July.

The Director of UNRWA Affairs in Jordan, senior Agency officials, government officials, representatives of the British Ladies in Amman and a big crowd of refugees attended the open day.

The British ladies donated JD 400 toward the activities of the centres. This is in addition to two cash contributions totalling JD 700 which they made earlier this year.

Two refugee notables, Mr. Saji Odeh Abu Shabab and Mr. Riyadh Dawoud donated JD 500 and a mini-bus respectively.

Prayer vigil for Alec Collett

A prayer vigil for the release and safe return of Alec Collett was held on 25 July in New York's Tudor City neighbourhood, where he lives. The vigil was co-sponsored by Mr. Collett's neighbours and the United Nations Staff Committee.

Mr. Collett, a journalist with some 35 years' experience in Britain, Eastern Europe, West Africa and the United States, has been held captive since he was kidnapped south of Beirut on 25 March while on a reporting assignment for UNRWA.

Friends and neighbours of the Colletts have addressed a petition to British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and United Nations Secretary General Perez de Cuellar urging them to keep up every effort to gain the release of Alec Collett.

Staff news

- Mr. Lennart G. Nygren joined the Agency on 27 July and was appointed Engineer, Lebanon.

- Mr. John F. Earnshaw, Senior Auditor, Headquarters (Vienna) is appointed Field Finance Officer, Jordan with effect from 10 August 1985. He succeeds Mr. John C. Fennessy who is appointed Financial Policies and Systems Officer, Headquarters (Vienna), on or around 14 August 1985.

- Mr. Jan H. Dahlman, Engineer, Headquarters (Amman) is appointed Field Relief Services Officer, Lebanon, with effect from 3 August. Mr. Sean A. Collins, Engineer, S.A.R. will succeed Mr. Dahlman as Engineer, Headquarters (Amman) with effect from 31 August.

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